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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Merseburg Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 1 to 22 December 1953DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 19 January 1954

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REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Merseburg airfield between 1 and 22 December 1953:

1 and 2 December. There was no air activity although the weather was cloudless.

3 December. Between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., swept-back jet fighters were observed aloft. There were clouds in the sky.

5 and 6 December. No air activity was observed. The weather was cloudless and visibility was good.

7 December. Thirty-five MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s were counted in front of the hangars and in the revetments. Additional aircraft were parked in open hangars.

9 December. Between 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., some local flights were made. There was a closed ceiling and poor visibility.

10 to 22 December. There was comparatively little air activity. Between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 17 December, some flights were made by MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s, while the weather was cloudless. The landing field was covered with snow 3 to 4 cm deep after 20 December. The snow was not cleared away up to 22 December. Between 10:30 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. on 22 December, air activity was conducted at the field. There was a closed ceiling.¹

2. According to rumors in Merseburg, the dependents of the married officers were again allowed to come to Germany.²

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Merseburg airfield is occupied by a fighter division headquarters and a fighter regiment. A total of 48 MiG-15s were reportedly stationed at the field in late November 1953. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The present report makes mention of 35 and more MiG-15s. It has not been determined for what purpose an increased number of aircraft are stationed at the field. The actual aircraft strength at the field is unknown.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. These rumors are believed to come true as the arrival of Soviet officers dependents was reportedly expected or effected at other airfields.

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